



**U.S. COAST GUARD
MARINE SAFETY OFFICE PORTLAND, MAINE**

SAFETY ALERT

On August 23rd, 1995 a crewman on a fishing vessel operating from Portland, Maine was seriously injured when his right arm was partially severed during haul back of the trawl net.

The accident occurred when the crewman's arm was caught between the gallows frame and a stiffening flange on the net reel while the net reel was being backed off. The resulting injury shattered the bone just above the elbow and left the arm partially severed.

The net reel on this vessel had twelve stiffening flanges arranged like spokes on a wheel that were approximately three inches deep and cleared the gallows framing by less than one half an inch.

As the net reel was within reach of the main deck, this hazard should have been guarded to prevent injury

Operators of commercial fishing vessels are requested to examine their vessels to insure that this particular hazard does not exist onboard their vessels as well.

Also noted during this accident was the inadequacy of the first aid kit onboard the vessel. Unlike shore based factories and businesses fishing vessels may encounter situations where persons are injured and medical assistance is hours away. Even vessel operators with professionally prepared first aid kits should insure that their vessels are equipped with extra first aid equipment, especially bandages and gauze pads to control serious bleeding.

Coast Guard assistance is available to any commercial fishing vessel to help determine if exposed hazards exist. For further information contact the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office at (207) 780-3251 ext. 115.

**Direction of
net reel
rotation**

**Crew man
injured at
this point.**



View of net reel arrangement on vessel (injury occurred on port side).